

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for achieving synchronization in a value metering system using a digital print head capable of printing a plurality of printed lines on a substrate displaced relative to the print head in a moving direction, wherein the lines are substantially perpendicular to the moving direction, and a first signal is provided for indicating a line is printed, said apparatus comprises:

a first mechanism operable at a first position to restrict the displacement of the substrate and a second position to effectively disengage from substrate, wherein the first mechanism is operated at the first position when the print head prints a line; and

a second mechanism, responsive to the first signal, for causing the first mechanism to operate at the second position thereby allowing the displacement of the substrate by a predetermined distance relative to the print head for printing a next line.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a third mechanism, responsive to the displacement of the substrate, for providing a second signal, indicative of the displacement of the substrate by the predetermined distance, for causing the print head to print the next line.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a fourth mechanism, responsive to a last line, for providing for preventing the first mechanism from further operating at the first position after the last line is printed.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the third mechanism comprises an optical sensor.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the substrate is displaced by a roller, and the first mechanism comprises a latching mechanism operatively connected to the roller for restricting the roller from movement when the first mechanism is operated at the first position.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the first mechanism further comprises a gear mechanically linked with the roller for movement, and wherein the gear has a plurality of gear teeth and the latching mechanism is capable of engaging the gear teeth for restricting the movement of the gear.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the value metering system is a counter-top system.
8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the value metering system is a hand-held system.
9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the value metering system comprises a postage meter.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the substrate is displaced by a movement device.

12. A method of achieving synchronization in a value metering system using a digital print head capable of printing a plurality of lines, one line at a time, on a substrate, which is displaced in a moving direction relative to the print head, wherein the lines are substantially perpendicular to the moving direction, said method comprising the steps of:

engaging the substrate with a first mechanism capable of restricting the displacement of the substrate while the print head is printing a line;

providing a first signal indicating said line is printed;

disengaging the first mechanism from the substrate in response to the first signal; and

displacing the substrate by a predetermined distance for printing a next line.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of providing a second signal indicative of the displacement of the substrate by the predetermined distance, for causing the print head to print the next line.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of preventing the first mechanism from further restricting the displacement of the substrate after a last

line is printed.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of providing a third signal, indicative of the next line being a last line, for preventing the first mechanism from further restricting the displacement of the substrate.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the lines have a width and the predetermined distance is substantially equal to the width of the lines.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein the lines have a width and the predetermined distance is proportional to the width.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein the value metering system comprises a counter-top metering system.

19. The method of claim 12, wherein the value metering system comprises a hand-held metering system.

20. The method of claim 12, wherein the value metering system comprises a postage meter.

22. The method of claim 12, wherein the value metering system comprises a coupon printer.

a digital print head capable of printing a plurality of lines, one line at a time, on the substrate, wherein the substrate is displaced relative to the print head in a moving direction;

a second mechanism, responsive to said printing, for providing a first signal indicative of the print head having printed said line; and

a third mechanism, responsive to the first signal, for causing the first mechanism to operate at a second position, thereby allowing the displacement of the substrate by a predetermined distance for printing a next line.

24. The value-metering system of claim 23, further comprising a fourth mechanism, responsive to the displacement of the substrate by the predetermined distance, for causing the print head to print the next line.

31. The value-metering system of claim 28, wherein the print head is adapted to printing an indicium.

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